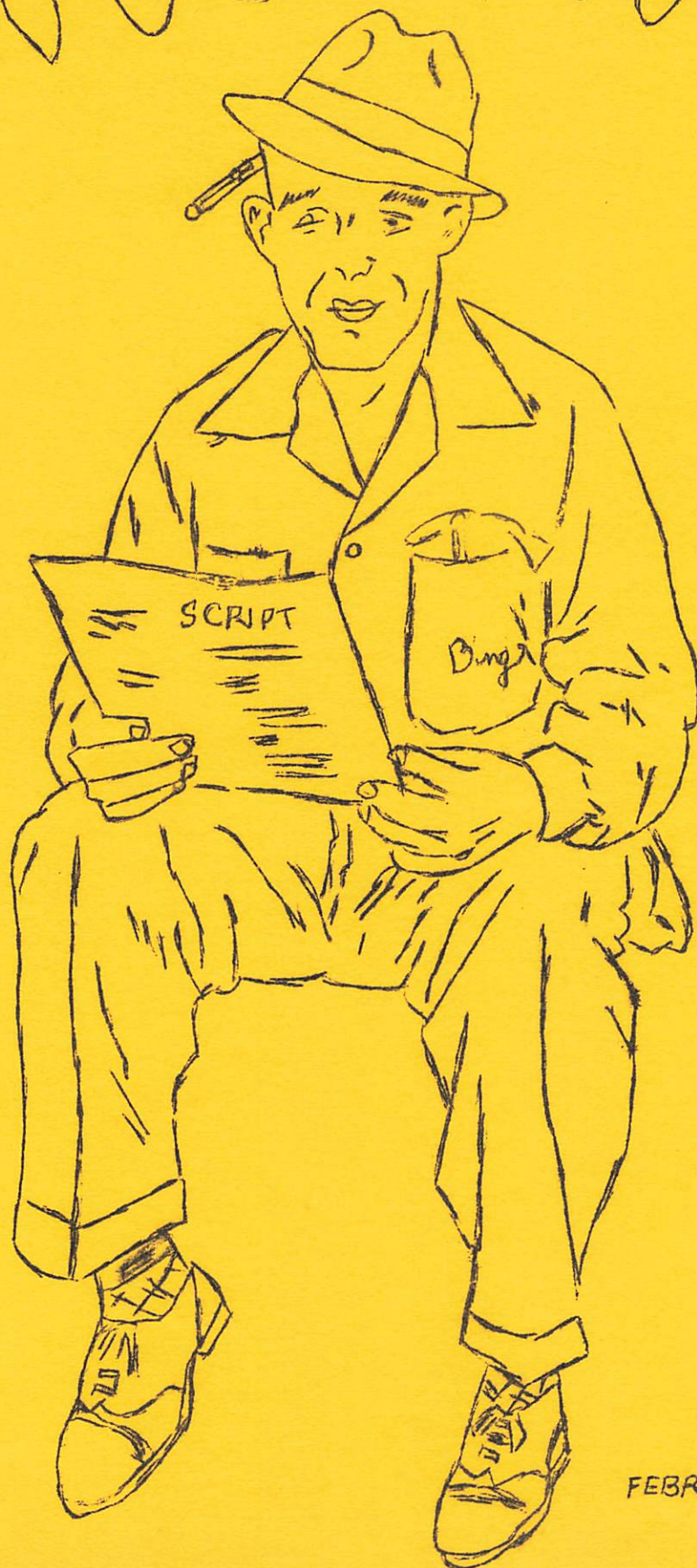


BINGAWE



FEBRUARY, 1959

CLUB CROSBY PRESENTATION

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 when otherwise indicated

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Honorary Vice-President...Larry Crosby, 9028 Sunset Blvd., La., Calif.
 Active President...Rena Albanesi, 128 Kimball Terrace, Yonkers 4, N.Y.
 Active Vice-President...Mary Maloney, 586 Adams Ave., Elizabeth, N.J.

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Austria...Angeline Gurlitt, Bad-Ausee, Styria, Lenaughel, Austria
 England...Doris Jones, 87 Norton Street, Old Trafford, Manchester 16,
 England
 Southern Cross Branch...Thelma Hardie (Mrs.) Pigeon Bay Banks
 Peninsula Canterbury, New Zealand

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Mrs. Harry L. Crosby	Gary Crosby	Pat Boone
Perry Como	Steve Allen	Eddie Fisher
Frankie Laine	Patti Page	Debbie Reynolds
Ken Murray	Fontane Sisters	Liberace
Rosemary Clooney	Phil Silvers	Bill Stewart
Donald O'Conner	Jack Ellsworth	
Reverend Clifford Carroll S.J. - Librarian at Gonzaga University		
Michael Holliday - singing star of Great Britian		
Happi Hill - New Zealand disc jockey		
Douglas Black - South Australia disc jockey		
Gordon Wall - Victoria, Australia		
Stan Gibson - New South Wales, Australia		

Membership Dues: \$1.25 - plus 3 - 6¢ stamps

An X on the address label means your membership expires with this issue of "Bingang".

We are registered with:

Hear Hollywood
 Hep Cats Review
 Movie Life

Starduster
 Movie Star Parade
 Teen Magazine

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Here we are once again with a new journal. I hope you and your families had a very Merry Christmas, and I want to wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Before I go any further, I want to once again thank the members who have contributed to our Christmas collection. After giving it very much thought, we decided to turn the money over to a worthy cause. So I wrote to Larry (Crosby) for a suggestion, and he told me about St. Labre Indian School, in Ashland, Montana, so in the name of Bing and Kathryn, we sent a check for \$45.00. You will find two letters of thanks, one from Bing and one from Rev. Emmett Hoffmann, of St. Labre Mission. Once again thank you to the following members:

Valentine Catena
Robert Carty
Lillian Potter
Florence VanBrock
Pearl Elliott
Gael LaFleche
Helen Tolton
Mary Maloney
Stella Salamida
Priscilla Koernig

Lucille Bing
Harry Fulmer
Barbara Waggener
Jo Clancy
Mary T. Light
Fred McBride
Pat Sullivan
Minnie Levy
Ruth Casey
Stacia Foucault

Marian Bogan
Marjorie Lackie
Rose Beachnau
Christina Gibb
Ann Heidelberger
Ellen McCabe
Elsie Schweer
Ruth Tobaben
Helen Chalus

We are going to try and take this collection each year, for Bing's birthday and Christmas, if you agree, it won't have to be given to the same cause each time. If you wish to help for Bing's birthday, which is May 2, please have it to me by April 15, 1959.

Besides Bing's letter, you will find one from Larry thanking us for the get-well card I sent their mother in the club's name. You will also find a note from Kathryn thanking me for a birthday card I sent her in the club's name.

The snaps in this journal, connected with the Crosby Library were used with the permission of Remington Rand. The snap of Kathryn, appeared in the New York Journal American, December 9th, during her visit here in New York. The snap of Bing and Dean Martin came from Life magazine, December 22nd. issue.

Now, for the happy news of Bing's making two new movies for, 20th. Century Fox. First, "Say One For Me", with Debbie Reynolds, Robert Wagner. The other one, "Bachelor's Baby". We also have the news of Gary's next movie, "Holiday For Lovers", he received such wonderful praise from his movie, "Mardi Gras".

Bing's television show also received very good comments, I have put in a few here from our New York newspapers. We all enjoyed him on Dean Martin's television show, and the happy surprise bit on the Eddie Fisher's show.

I'd like to once again welcome our new members. I hope they will enjoy their stay with Us:

Loretta VanBoven
Lola Clements
Mildred Hubschmitt

James Dahl
Mary Mekus
Judy Cloyes

Stacia Foucault
Mary Louise Kenney

I guess that's about all for now, please do go ahead and enjoy the journal.

FROM THE CROSBY'S

December 1, 1958

Miss. Rena Albanesi, President
THE CLUB CROSBY
128 Kimball Terrace
Yonkers 4, New York

Dear Rena:

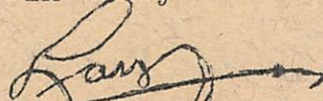
We have so many charitable demands, it's difficult to advise which is the favorite.

Maybe one the club members would enjoy aiding is:

St. Labre Indian School
Ashland, Montana

It's cold up there, and they need fuel.

Sincerely


Larry Crosby

LC:vs

December 21, 1958

Miss. Rena Albanesi
128 Kimball Terrace
Yonkers 4, New York

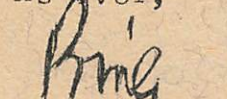
Dear Rena:

What you did for the St. Labre Indian School up in Montana, was a very nice gesture. It was a wonderful thought that prompted the deed. I'm sure they'll make very good use indeed of the \$45 you sent them, and I want you to extend my thanks to all the members of the Club, in which of course, you as the guiding spirit are included.

All best personal good wishes -

BC:lm

As ever,


Bing Crosby

November 24, 1958

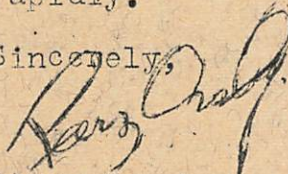
The Club Crosby
Rena Albanesi, President
128 Kimball Terrace
Yonkers, New York

Dear Club Members:

Mother greatly appreciated your kind thoughts in connection with her illness, and asked me to thank you.

She is improving rapidly.

Sincerely,



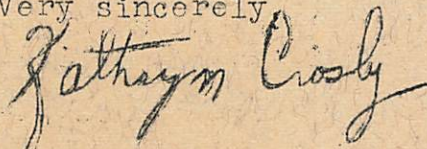
LC:vs

Larry Crosby

Dear Rena:

My thanks to you and the Club Crosby Members for the Birthday Greetings and good wishes.

Very sincerely,



If you wish to send birthday cards to any of the members, the following come before the next journal, please send me your birthday, so we can exchange cards with one another.

Pearl Elliott - R.R. No. 3 Lakefield, Ontario, Canada - April 3
Lillian Potter - 37 Elvina Gardens Toronto, Ontario, Canada - April 3
Mary Maloney - May 6
Christina Gibb - R.F.D. #2 - Blairstown, New Jersey - May 8
Florence Van Brock - 1823 Victor Street, St. Louis 4, Missouri - June 30

Bing - May 2

From Stardust Journal - Very few clubs donate to charity, so it is with pleasure we noticed that this faithful old Crosby club has collected \$35 to send to the Dixie Lee Crosby Cancer Fund.

Most Outstanding Charity Work.

(Bingang - October)

Bing Crosby Club - Rena Albanesi
Dixie Lee Crosby Cancer Fund
\$35.00

ST. LABRE INDIAN MISSION

ASHLAND, MONTANA

December 27, 1958

Rena Albanesi
Club Crosby
128 Kimball Terrace
Yonkers, New York

Dear Rena,

Mr. Larry Crosby sent me a check in the ammount of \$45.00 which he explained was from your club. I want to thank you most sincerely for this generous donation. I am sure that Bing was also happy to know that your Christmas present to him was in the form of charity to us here at the Indian.Mission.

I wish I could find the proper words with which to say thanks. The words, "thank you" look so cold on paper. But I want you to know that when I say "Thank You" it is with a heart full of gratitude joined with the same gratitude of the people you have helped by this donation.

Your help to us has been an aid in providing at least in a small way a happy Christmas to the poor and neglected. May God reward you for this. I know that you will express my sincerest thanks to all the members of your Club Crosby.

Wishing you everything that is good in the New Year and praying that the joy and happiness of Christmas may abide in your soul always, I remain

Gratefully yours,
Rev. Emmett Hoffmann

My Letter to Bing and Kathryn
December 16, 1958

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Crosby,

You will find enclosed a check for \$45.00, which we would like you to turn over to, "St. Labre Indian School". We have taken this up as a Christmas collection. The letter enclosed tells which of our members helped.

When we first deecided to take the collection we wanted to purchase a gift for you both, but after giving it very much thought, we felt a check to some worthy cause would make you both happy as it does us.

Myself and all the club members want to take this opportunity to wish you both the Merriest Christmas, and all the Happiness in the New Year.

I am Most Sincerely,
Rena (Albanesi)

My Letter to the St. Labre Indian School

On behalf of myself and my club members, I wish you would accept the enclosed check in the name of Bing Crosby. We have taken this up as a Christmas collection.

JUST A BIT ABOUT LARRY CROSBY

Rena Albanesi

I wanted to write something about Larry (Crosby), because he is the one person who has to put up with me and my many requests, most of the time. Whenever I need help on anything, I always call on him, and he very patiently gives it to me.

I write to him at least once a month asking for help on anything from snaps for our journals, to asking for help with the many kinds of varied mail I receive.

Larry is the eldest in the Crosby family. He handles Bing's public relations, charities, music and research, from headquarters in the Crosby building on Sunset Boulevard in Beverly Hills.

This edifice houses the offices of Crosby Enterprises-which controls Bing's TV, radio, recording and some of his film interests-and as well the offices of Crosby Research Institute. The latter, operating under Larry's supervision, gives the Crosby seal of approval to a variety of manufacturers' products.

Larry is also the Tournament Chairman of the Bing Crosby Pro-Amateur Golf Championship, which in 1959 will have its 18th tournament. Youth Centers, mainly on the Monterey Peninsula have benefited from the proceeds of Bing Crosby's golf tournament. Some of the money has gone to churches, some to the fight against polio, to old people's homes, scholarships for caddies and to the armed forces. But mainly it has been earmarked for youth centers. Approximately \$300,000 has been raised in the years since the tournament was moved to the Monterey Peninsula.

Brother Everett with offices in New York, is Bing's business manager-and has been ever since Everett took Bing to New York in 1932 and steered him into a remunerative radio contract with CBS.

That's about all I can say, but I want to say thank you once again to Larry, and also to the others at the Crosby Office, for all the help they've given me. Our club is now in its 23rd year, and without their patience and help, we would have never lasted this long. My most heartfelt appreciation to one and all.

SNAPS FOR SALE

1. Bing and Phil (Life)
2. Four boys on Life cover
3. Bing and Linny
4. Bing alone TV Radio-Mirror
5. Bing coming out of Screen Guild-several years ago
6. Bing with cigar-after birth of Harry Jr.
7. Bing at 4 years old with baseball bat in his hand
8. Bing at Elko ranch
9. Bing and Gary, "Mardi Gras" set starting day
10. Bing as Father O'Malley at the Piano
11. Bing at Brown Derby, looking at 1,125 sketches of himself
12. Bing and Bob Hope
13. Bing on Oldsmobile show
14. Bing, Dean Martin, Phil Harris (Dean Martin's show)
15. Bing, Patti Page, Dean Martin rehearsing Bing's show
16. Crosby Library at Gonzaga University

If you wish any of these snaps they are 10¢ each. I also have many more for sale, if you wish any of them, please let me know and I will send you a list.



Kathy at the Waldorf Towers on
recent visit to New York

Son Rival to Bing

KATHY SNEERS AT MINK * Nice as Loan But Not Own - Atra Baer

Kathryn Grant, 25 checked into a flower-filled suite in the Waldorf Towers yesterday tossed a few thousand dollars worth of "black diamond" mink coat on the sofa, and began to talk about all the things that had happened to her since the last time I interviewed her three year ago.

That was three years ago B.C. (Before Crosby - Bing Crosby) who at the time she demurely called an "American Institution," Then, too, she had smilingly refused to say if they'd be married or not.

"I'm really happy for you," I said meaning it, and eyeing the plain gold wedding band, her only jewelry. "I remember the last time when you came to town and your studio had to lend you a mink coat."

"Isn't the coat beautiful?" smiled the sweet-faced 25-year old Texas-born brunet. "It doesn't belong to me, I borrowed it in Hollywood. I can't afford a full length mink."

"Oh brother," was my mental comment.

Kathryn who can get a job as a mind reader anytime, promptly explained she's on a self-imposed allowance, that she thinks she "looks silly in mink", and why buy one when she'd wear it once or twice a year anyway?

Marriage to an "American Institution" and one of our wealthiest institutions at that, hasn't changed levelheaded, straight-talking Kathryn Grant Crosby.

"People have been so kind," she enthused. "Bing is the kindest man in the world. He's my first love and my last love...and honestly, I don't know how much of this 'girl talk' you should print."

Formidable rival for Bing's affections is their four-month-old son, Harry Lillis Crosby Jr.

"Bing sings Irish songs to little 'Tex', as we call him, at bedtime, and 'Tex' makes gurgly noises in appreciation."

Kathy told Bing's 90-year-old mother who lives with them that someday she'd like "seven" assorted.

"But I can't figure out why none of his other sons weren't named 'Bing Jr.' I'm so proud of having a 'Jr.' and I think Bing is too."

The movie career of Kathryn Grant will continue with Bing's approval-although he advises her against playing certain parts and nixed her appearance in the controversial "Cat On a Hot Tin Roof." She's in town for the opening of Columbia Pictures. "The Seventh Voyage Of Sinbad" in which she stars-filmed incidentally, before she became Mrs. Crosby.

Next week she'll head back to Hollywood as hostess of a Christmas reunion which will be attended by all of Bing's sons.

By mutual agreement Bing stayed on the coast to enter a golf tournament. As of yesterday morning, he was fifth with a score of 72. The tournament continues today.

New York Journal American

December 9, 1958

Kathy Crosby has ruled that Bing mustn't disturb Harry Lillis Jr. in the nursery when he's sleeping or feeding. Bing was spending so much time with the baby he was throwing him off schedule.

(New York Post)

November 6, 1958

With all the guessing and wondering how young Mrs. Bing Crosby was getting along with her mother-in-law, Mrs. Kate Crosby who ran Bing's household until he was married. Dr. John Jordan answered it. He operated on the elder Mrs. Crosby and told me she is very, very fond of Kathryn, and Kathy stayed right with her even to scrubbing up and assisting in the operating room.

I remember when I first interviewed the young Mrs. Crosby right after her marriage, and she told me she learned so much about cooking from Bing's mother. As I have always said, Kathy is a very sensible and well-adjusted young woman.

(New York Journal American)

November 13, 1958

Well, the Bing Crosbys can tell where their next yacht is coming from, if they want a yacht, that is. Not only has Bing been signed for two movies at 20th Century-Fox and sold his Nevada ranch for \$1,000,000 but now his pretty Kathy is going to work to swell the family coffers.

Kathy, practically mended from that facial injury from an auto accident, is set for one of the top roles in Irwin Allen's "The Big Circus." Vic Mature, Red Buttons and Rhonda Fleming are the other stars which might be regarded as tough competition. But you can bet Mrs. C. will hold her own.

(New York Journal American)

November 22, 1958

Columbia Studios brought in Kathryn Grant for interviews on, "Seventh Voyage", but due to the newspaper strike could not, interview her.

Initially Col had brought Kathy Grant who stars in the picture to New York for national television and local newspaper interviews. With the strike on, the company induced Miss Grant to remain several more days. Was on, "I've Got a Secret", "What's My Line", Peter Lind Hayes show.

(Variety)

December 17, 1958

On this occasion I would like to mention our Advisory Committee and Honorary Members and what they are doing to help the "Southern Cross" Branch.

We are most fortunate in having John Purches, Don Madge and Doug Black as members of our Advisory Committee. They are a great help to me and are always willing to give advice when necessary.

John, who is a record collector, submits our "Record Review" and years ago before the Club Crosby got started in Australia, along with others, he ran a Crosby Social Club in South Australia.

Doug and Don also record collectors, show their willingness to help in every way possible, and new members have been enrolled through Doug's radio programmes.

As for our Honorary Members: Gordon Wall is no stranger to Australian radio listeners. Recently his broadcasts from 3DB Melbourne were heard and enjoyed by many. Gordon who possesses a complete collection of Bing's recordings covering the past 30 years, presented a selection of these rare discs and told some unusual stories and his stories about his collection in this entertaining "Crosbyana."

Doug Black is Honorary for South Australia, and through his wide experience is again able to give valued assistance.

New South Wales is well represented by Stan Gibson who is another willing worker and helps in many ways to keep the old flag flying through-out that State.

Here in New Zealand we have Happi Hill who has given Bing much good publicity during the years he has been broadcasting a Commercial programme also the help and advice he has given me in Club matters has been invaluable.

On behalf of our Branch, I would like to say "thank you" to our Advisory Committee and Honoraries, also to our Group Leaders. Their loyal support cannot be overlooked.

Until next time, best wishes to you all.

Phil Silvers and Frank Sinatra still talk about the audience Pope Pius granted them on short notice when they were in Rome after World War II entertaining for U.S.O.-Camp Shows. The Pope expressed surprise when Frank explained that he was a singer of pop songs. "An Italian who doesn't sing opera?" His Holiness exclaimed, with a mischievous glint in his eyes. When Phil was presented he described himself as a comedian of Jewish parentage. The Pope smiled and said how important he thought it was to have the gift to make the world laugh. Silvers then asked the Pope for a favor, said he'd promised one of America's great singing stars, Bing Crosby, that he'd try to get rosary beads blessed for all the members of the Crosby clan. After the beads were blessed Sinatra and Silvers left St. Peter's, entered their car and as they started to drive off Frank turned to Phil with disgust and said: "You're a great pal. Here I get you an audience with the Pope and what do you do? You put in a plug for a rival singer!"

Herald Tribune

October 10, 1958

Bing Crosby without his toupee and not giving a darn, seemed to be enjoying himself with his lovely Kathy. Marriage and her motherhood have given Kathy a new radiance. In her white faille coat, cut full all around and a white ribbon band encircling her chignon, she was simply a vision. "She grows prettier all the time." I told Bing. "Thank you ma'am," he said his eyes lighting up with pleasure. Is he ever happy in this marriage.

Photoplay

MEET THE MEMBERS

Mary Maloney

Hi!

This certainly has been an exciting TV season for us, hasn't it? Bing has appeared on TV twice and there's more to come. Then, too, the announcement that Bing will be appearing in, not one but two, movies was good news to all of us. Looks as if 1959 will be an exciting year.

Now, let's meet our members.

Harry Fulmer lives at 2956 N. Leithgow Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Harry has been a Crosby fan and collector of his records since he was in his teens, his mother having been a great fan of Bing's took him to see a lot of his pictures and as Harry says, "he kind of grew on me."

Harry has all of Bing's commercial recordings, over 400 air shots dating back to 1936, including his first air show.

Besides Bing he has many other record interests, Perry Como, Big Bands and is crazy about the Latin groups.

Dancing is quite a hobby of Harry's and he has done a lot of it in the Philadelphia-New York area. With the help of some good partners, he has won five contests.

Our next member comes from Australia. Meet Shirley McClenaghan of 14 Faulkner Street, Armidale 5.N. New South Wales, Australia. Shirley is single, 5'7" tall, has brown hair and dark brown eyes. Her birthday is July 3rd. and she says, "I was nearly a Yankee Doodle Dandy

Shirley wrote such an interesting letter that I'm going to let her tell you about herself. "I am employed by Hoyts Theatres Ltd. of Australia as Cashier-Secretary at the local theatre. I relieve my boss the Manager, each year, as Manageress, when he has his holidays. I have quite a spell coming up soon when he takes his long service Leave. I am the eldest in my family, having three brothers - can you imagine the rough time I get! One of my brothers is married, and living with us, and they have a dear little boy Peter 10 months old. I am a doting aunt.

I have been a Bing fan as long as I can remember going to the movies-and have been a member of BINGANG since 1949. One of my proudest possessions is Bing's Musical Autobiography of five long playing records. I do quite a lot of reading and writing letters, having corresponded with a Pen Pal in England for over ten years. I have recently given up tennis to play golf - hope I make a better golfer than I was a tennis player. Like most people I wish I could travel a lot more than I have, especially in my own country, which is so vast. I have had a few trips of interest including a couple to the fabulous Great Barrier Reef.

I live in the New England District of New South Wales and we are known widely for our schools and colleges and churches, having a University and Teachers College, 4 private schools and several public schools.

Our climate is very healthy - we have the extremes in winter and summer. I'm a summer girl and really enjoy getting out and having a good old sunbake.

I have a couple of other favorite film stars, as well as Bing. I like Ingrid Bergman and William Holden. I think Pat Boone is very good too, and would like to see him last as long as Der Bingle.

MEET THE MEMBERS.....Cmt'd

Well, gang, it looks as if that's all for now. One more thing I hope some more of you will be writing to me. I'm running out of material for this column.

Hope you all had a very Merry Christmas, and will enjoy a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Send info about yourself to Miss. Mary Maloney, 586 Adams Avenue Elizabeth, New Jersey.

PEOPLE AT THE TOP OF ENTERTAINMENT'S WORLD

The soul spirit and spark plugs of entertainment are the personalities of its performers and creators. In the spotlight are the stars-the heroes and household gods whose public appearances and private lives are worshipfully watched, whose autographs, pictures and shreds of clothing are collected and sometimes enshrined. Behind the stars are the stokers. These are the authors, composers, producers and directors-all the creators who feed the celestial fires.

Life presented a gallery of ascendant names of show business grouping them on pages in five major categories. Most of them are people whose achievements have won them high influence and an enduring place in U.S. entertainment history.

For instance, four men (Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra) are among those who stand out as multiple-threat performers, exerting the spellbinding force that is the essence of entertainment.

Bing Crosby's easygoing warmth and his shrewd showmanship have made him both a master crooner and an impressive film actor.

If the performers seem to dominate the entertainment world, there is good reason. They are the front men, the link between all the rest of show business and the public. Irving Berlin for example wrote a lovely song, "White Christmas". But would we be reminded that "tree-tops glisten and children listen to hear sleighbells in the snow" if Bing had not made the first marvelous record of it?

Nobody knows exactly what makes a performer a public idol. Show people call it, for want of a better term, star quality. Its posseors stand out sharply as examples or symbols of something the public admires or needs. In personifying our secret desires or lifelong ambitions the performers are mirrors of ourselves in our own place and time.

Life

December 22, 1958

Kathy Grant Scholarship

Mrs. Bing Crosby has established a scholarship fund at the U. of Texas to aid drama students.

Former Kathy Grant (Kathryn Grandstaff) is a drama graduate of the university.

She designated the fund as the Lillian Barkley Scholarship. Mrs. Barkley was her educational advisor during the early days at Columbia Studios in Hollywood.

Variety

October 15, 1958

If you wish to purchase any of Bing's records, as well as other artists, write to Ray Avery's Rare Records - 1349 Carmen Drive - Glendale 7, California.

THOSE TALKIN' CROSBYS

Those four Crosbys-and Phil's bride, Sandra-had supper at the Hampshire House around 1 a.m. today and freely discussed Bing's latest exemption and brother Dennis' new hairpieces.

I had a happy time listening to Gary ("the den mother") telling the honeymooning Phil and Sandra and Dennis and Lindsay:

"Yes, you put on shirts and ties here! This is New York."

They'd flown in-first time together in New York-to film the Phil Silvers "Sgt. Bilko" show on CBS-and Gary, so warm and a junior edition of his father, was at the phone.

"Want a little taste?" he asked. Everybody did, except Sandra, who doesn't use it. He gave the order.

"Which Crosby is getting married next?" I asked.

"I know which one ain't!" howled Gary. Phil then playfully kidded the prematurely - bald Dennis about his curls. Gary said Dennis acquired a couple of "divots" to make him look practically shaggy on TV.

"He's got a couple of the old man's rejects," Gary laughed.

Dennis-who married beautiful Pat Sheehan last summer nervously wondered whether this was news.

"Sure!" Gary waved away his objections. "Your picture was on Life. Come out looking like a grizzly bear and people are going to notice it."

Dennis, they said "is now the power in the family-he's a disc jockey-he plays people's records-everybody loves him."

"I sent him my record and he lost it," beefed Phil (who's recorded "Ball of Love").

"Your screaming fans stole it from me and ate it," Dennis said.

"Why can't WE be on your show?" Gary asked. "We ain't big enough?"

"You can be on. The old man was on. He just walked in."

"Have you thought of singing as a quartet?" I asked.

"I've been thinking about it," Gary said, "but we'd have to wait till Slip-Out Louie gets out of the Army in about four months."

"Slip-Out Louie" turned out to be Lindsay who hadn't attended a family dinner the night before with Bing and Kathy; he'd slipped out to see "Auntie Mame."

"When are you going to let your dad retire?" I asked.

"Not till he gets some more exemptions," one of the boys said, but Gary said, "He's losing one exemption-Lindsay'll be 21 January 5--but he gained another one with the baby. I don't think he'll ever retire."

Just then the waiter brought the food. "Here he is the flower of the eating world!" cried Gary-and they set to work.

By the way, you may notice that Sandra didn't get a chance to say anything in this story. She didn't in the hotel suite either.

(New York Post)

October 6, 1958

We sat with the newweds, the young Phil Crosby's, at Toots Shor's. The former Vegas showgirl hinted that she was through with show-business-that all she wanted was for Phil to get them a little house in Beverly Hills where they could settle down in serene domesticity. Bing's younger son said he could scarcely wait for the first big anniversary. "Another two weeks," he chirped, "and we celebrate our first month."

He inquired of my wife whether she had a cigaret for him, but spurned it because it wasn't a filter tip.

(N.Y. Journal American) Louis Sobel October 15, 1958



Bing and Dean Martin
Rehearsing Oldsmobile Show

There may be many Crosbys, to paraphrase the Bard, but never such another as Bing. If you missed his special live show on ABC last night, then you missed one of television's shining hours. And my dears, the shining ones are in rather short supply this year.

It's difficult to write about so superior an entertainment without sounding like a gushing rill. But it must be said straight off that this joyous hour of song had taste, beauty, wit, insouciance, great warmth and an endearing sense of old-fashioned fun. (Very well, send your complaints to Miss Rill.)

Naturally, a great deal of credit is due the many expert hands behind the scenes. But one suspects that it was the presence of Mr. Crosby not to mention his expert hand in all phases of the production that gave the show its particular glow.

Certainly his guest stars, Patti Page and Dean Martin, have participated in many glossy, expensive shows before this one. But they were never in better form than last night. Working with Bing seemed to bring out the best that was in them, you felt they were trying to please him as well as the folks out front.

The most pleasing element in the show was its air of gentle, relaxed fun. Bing remarked during a rocking chair number that he seemed to be out-relaxing his friend. "Perry Creamy."

"He'll be laid up in a hammock after," he added. Small, wry observations like this were frequent. And they were no small part of the show's charm. It's the first time I can recall watching a musical and straining my ears for the dialog. So utterly casual and spontaneous is the Crosby delivery that one wondered at times which lines were ad libs and which came from Bing's long-time writer, Bill Morrow.

To get down to the specifics of the show, it was clean, uncluttered and drenched in nostalgia. Bing sang "Swanee," "In a Little Spanish Town,"

Television Show Review.....Cont'd.

"True Love" and a medley of old Irish songs. This last was offered in kind of party and thrust duet, Mr. Martin's weapons being old Italian songs. Their comments between were irreverent jousts and very funny.

With Miss Page, Bing sat in a gondola and crooned "True Love," a banal number he transforms into a murmur of lyrical tenderness. Later the three stars offered "Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries," making it miraculously fresh and new.

Another guest on this splendid hour was Mahalia Jackson, twice referred to by Bing as "a great artist." She is, too with a voice of surging depth and power with grace notes of incredible delicacy. She sang "Summertime" and two spirituals.

Near the close of the show Crosby, Martin and Miss Page took a classic stance before three music stands and offered some highly original compositions supposedly submitted to them by would be song writers. Mr. Martin's was titled simply Grace. The lyric reached its highest rapture with the line, "Grace...the fuzz on your chin is like lace" and ended with the plea, "Let me run my fingers through your face...Grace."

For all this special material, credit Sammy Cahn, who also served as associate producer. The sets, subtle suggestions of great vistas, were enormously effective, as were the dancing lights. The commercials, featuring Bill Hays and Florence Henderson, must have taken three weeks to rehearse. They were stylish and witty as the show-and that, as you may gather, is saying a lot.

(World Telegram & Sun)

October 2, 1958

The one salient feature of "The Bing Crosby Show" on ABC-TV last night, was that it respected talent-pure, unadulterated talent.

It was an excellent show, produced with taste, charm, spirit and a keen regard for the simple needs of the miniature screen. Instead of extraneous window dressing, fancy trappings and dancing chorus girls, the Crosby show was primarily concerned with getting close to the gracious subjects and letting their talents hold the spotlight.

(Herald Tribune)

October 2, 1958

Bing Crosby proved both a critical and rating success Wednesday night. Scoring a Trendex average of 26.2 for the hour, Mr. Charm outpointed such stalwarts as "I've Got a Secret" and Roy Campanella or "This Is Your Life."

(Herald Tribune)

October 3, 1958

The Old Pros are still unbeatable. Bing Crosby and Phil Harris guested with Dean Martin on 4 Saturday night and gave us as happy an hour as we've ever enjoyed on TV. We especially liked the last part of the show where Bing and Dean sang a medley of hits introduced by Der Bingle.

(Daily Mirror)

November 24, 1958

Martin, in spite of a cold, delivered fine renditions of assorted hit tunes, and Phil Harris' lusty vocal manner was well utilized in a couple of offbeat numbers. But the show was at its best when Dean Martin and Bing Crosby got together for a nostalgic medley of The Groaner's old tune hits, including "June In January," "Love Thy Neighbor" and "Sweet Leilani".

Here the program had warmth, charm and humor, and had this mood prevailed throughout the hour, the show might have been a winner.

(Herald Tribune)

November 24, 1958

PAT SULLIVAN

Val Kronke
17573 E. Clayton
Parlier, California

James Dahl
2922 N. Whipple Street
Chicago 18, Illinois

Stacia Foucault
211 Jackson Street
Lawrence, Mass.

Allan Munro
48 Oxley Avenue
St. Albans, Christchurch
New Zealand

Margaret Dix
89 Panton Street
Golden Square
Victoria, Australia

Mary Simmonds
Waotu, R.D. Outaruru
North Island
New Zealand

Denise Simmonds
Fletcher's Sawmill
Box 82
Tokoroa, North Island
New Zealand

PEN PALS

Age 13, is in the 8th. grade at school. She plays the piano, organ and bass fiddle, lists her favorite sport as baseball, and likes mystery books and books about doctors and medicine. Her favorite actors are George Nader, Barry Coe and Cary Grant and her favorite actress Ann Blyth. Bing Crosby, Pat Boone, Perry Como, Ricky Nelson, Doris Day, Dinah Shore and Debbie Reynolds are her favorite singers. As hobbies she collects demitasse cups and movie star pictures

Age 24, would like to hear from members his own age to exchange letters and pictures. He collects stamps and lists his favorites as James Garner, Pat Boone and Dale Robertson.

Age 16, is a Junior in high school. She likes to swim and ski and collect Bing's records. Her ambition is to be a professional dancer and actress.

Age 17, would like to hear from members of his own age in the United States, Canada, England, Australia, as he is especially interested in those particular countries. Other interests are popular and classical music, singers Pat Boone, Bing Crosby, Nat King Cole, Perry Como and Eddie Fisher, and films, dancing, reading, and sports.

Is a good friend whom I've been writing to for quite a few years now, and she has asked that I include her name on this page once again. Age 20, Marg. has varied interests and writes long, interesting letters.

Age 20, would like a pen pal in Canada, United States or Australia. Hobbies are tennis, swimming and dancing. Also likes music and jazz, and collects movie magazines.

Denise age 13, is the niece of Mary whose name appears above, and she writes that her hobbies and interests are the same as Mary's.

Are here two new members who wish also to have pen pals:

Mary Louise Kenney - Age 21
310 Mt. Vernon Street
Dorchester 25, Mass.

Mary Mekus - Age 19
91 West Doughty Street
Dunkirk, New York

Anyone wishing to have penpals, please write to Pat Sullivan 3134 North 53rd. Street - Milwaukee 16, Wisconsin.

I have some back copies of, "Bingang", One is October, 1957 and Three, June, 1958.

August 29, 1958

Dear Miss. Albanesi,

I was very pleased to receive a letter from you. Many thanks for your kinds words saying that you are happy to have me as an Honorary Member of The Club Crosby.

It is indeed an Honour to be made an Honorary Member of such a grand club, and to work for such a wonderful person as Bing.

And like yourself I think there is no Performer who can top Bing in any branch of the entertainment field. I have been a fan of his for 25 years, have seen most of his films and have quite a few of his records.

Thanking you once again for writting me. I would like to say, "Bingang" is the best journal I have ever read.

I am Bing-Cerely,

Stan Gibson

Dear Rena,

Forgive the familiarity, but anyone who likes Bing is naturally a friendly type, so I used your first name. Thanks very much for your letter, I understand you being proud of the club, it's been around a long time. I think I joined 1948 or 9, I'm not sure. I used to write a bit to Ruth Mess from time to time, until I got into the record business that was almost the end. I've always tried to help Bing's releases, not that he needs it, but mainly to help sales in Australia, all the plugging of collectors here is paying off now, we get nearly all Bing releases now.

I've been collecting Bing records since 1929, I have every commercial disc he has made, 57 unissued songs all V discs and 150 Armed Forces 16" original broadcasts. I also have several original 16" Woodbury soap Bing programs-these date to 1936.

Best wishes,

Gordon Wall

JUST BITS OF INTEREST

Bing Crosby walked on Bob Hope's set while he was doing kissing scenes with Rhonda Fleming. During a lull Bing said, "When are you going to start shooting the picture? Bing and Bob have already discussed teaming for another picture, and it can't come too soon for me."
(Daily News)

November 14, 1958

Crooner Bing Crosby has pulled out of the Nevada ranching business. Bing sold his 19,000-acre ranch north of Elko, its 3,700 head of cattle and all equipment for a price exceeding \$1,000,000 it was announced yesterday.

The singer's spread has two air strips, two headquarters buildings, three working corrals, its own power plant and year-round water from five mountain streams.

(New York Post)

November 19, 1958

JUST BITS OF INTEREST.....Cont'd.

Bing Crosby will star in two 20th. Century-Fox productions next year, it was announced yesterday by the studio. The first picture will be "Say One For Me", in which the star will appear as a Roman Catholic priest whose parish includes the Broadway theatrical district. Robert Wagner and Debbie Reynolds will also star in this picture. The second film will be "Bachelor Baby," based on the Gwen Davenport book, in which Mr. Crosby will appear as an urbane art collector. Dick Powell will produce and direct the production.

(Herald Tribune)

November 20, 1958

Bob Hope got Bing Crosby and nine TV Western heroes as a surprise ending for his film, "Alias Jesse James."

(Daily News)

November 21, 1958

The Bing Crosby's gave their son Tex equal billing on their Christmas greeting.

(Herald Tribune)

December 29, 1958

Debbie Reynolds reactions to working with Bing Crosby for the first time are enthusiastically to the point: "I've had a lot of thrills in my life, but the very thought of working with him in a picture gave me butterflies. I've always stood in awe of Bing-and his priestly robes for this characterization certainly don't lessen it in the least. I'll be walking on eggs until the last scene is shot.

(Herald Statesman of Yonkers)

December 29, 1958

Kathryn Grant Crosby tells us that she gave both her husband's daughter-in-law plenty of pre-natal dry runs in how to care for infants. "Pat (who recently gave birth to a baby boy) and Sandra are using up all my vitamin pills." Kathryn says, "and Pat is teaching me how to burp our baby, they're practicing with him. Since she had a child before she's a little better with the burp bit than I am.

Another Crosby morsel. The other afternoon Gary Crosby dialed his pop's Holmby Hills home and didn't get an answer. "Gosh," Bing's eldest boy admitted to Peter Lorre. "I'm worried. There's just got to be somebody at Bing's house. It's like calling the Waldorf-Astoria and having no one answer the phone.

(Herald Tribune)

December 31, 1958

Christmas Sing With Bing

Another Christmas another Bing Crosby "Sing". CBS Radio established the Christmas Sing with Bing pattern four years ago and it still holds up as an easy and comfortable programming segment for Yule listening. With Crosby crooning and emceeing around-the-world pickup for Christmas festivities, the hour rolls by in a familiar but still enjoyable way. The hymns, carols and even the Tin Pan Alley salutes to the season get lots of play and the interviews with representatives from such far away places as Hawaii, Australia, Paris and Rome set the global mood in music and attitudes.

Extra added attraction this year was Kathryn Grant Crosby who joined her husband on "Away in the Manger" carol. Otherwise the tune pitch was the same. "Jingle Bells," "Adeste Fidelis," "White Christmas" and other standbys were pleasant to hear again in the Crosby manner. Accompaniment by the Norman Luboff Choir and Paul Weston orchestra was topnotch.

(Variety)

December 31, 1958

FROM THE WEST COAST

Priscilla Koernig

349 Banks Street
San Francisco 10, California

Greetings, Club Members,

Since the last journal, this "West Coast" gal has spent three marvelous weeks vacationing back east with my two friends, Donna DeVere (a school chum) and Pat Sullivan (a club member from Milwaukee, Wisconsin). We had the privilege of meeting our Prexy Rena and Vice Prexy Mary in New York City. We also met Mary Light, who came to New York City from Avon, New York, and Harry Fulmer in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania---all club members. Donna and I flew from here to Chicago, where we met Pat. Then the three of us took a Greyhound tour from Chicago (through Indiana and Ohio) to New York City, (thru New Jersey and Delaware), Philadelphia, Pa., Baltimore, Md., Washington, D.C., Richmond, Front Royal and Norfolk, Va., Boston, Mass. (thru Connecticut), Niagara Falls, N.Y. (thru lower portion of Ontario, Canada and Michigan and to Pat's home in Milwaukee. This was our first visit back east and we had a wonderful time. I don't dare even start to tell you about the vacation, because if I did, there just wouldn't be much room for any "West Coast" news. So, I will just add that I enjoyed meeting Rena, Mary Maloney, Mary Light and Harry Fulmer and also enjoyed spending so much time with my good friend Pat.

I was able to see Bing's T.V. Show at the Sullivan home in Milwaukee. Also loved Bing's recent appearance on Dean Martin's Show. It was nice seeing Gary on the Fisher Show and the four boys on Phil Silvers Show. I thought Gary was very good in his first motion picture, "Mardi Gras", which I saw here last week.

I thought I was over the excitement of little "Tex" being born on my birthday, until I received the announcement from Bing, with a picture and letter, answering mine regarding his T.V. show. I received a very nice note from Kathryn the other day thanking me for the birthday card I had sent her.

ADD VISITORS: George Jessel, who starts a TV show in L.A. Thursday over Bing Crosby's station---with Bing as his guest. "There nothing like putting the boss on your show," says Jessel, "especially if he can carry a tune."

San Mateo Times, October 3, 1958---BING SEES A GIRL AS HIS NEXT CHILD, by Bob Thomas--- Is there a daughter in Bing Crosby's future? Bing thinks so. "Next time we'll get a girl," he says confidently. This came out in a chat with the show business great as he worked on the first of his two spectaculars for ABC this week. In a mellow mood, he spoke of his latest son, Harry Lillis Jr., his four older boys and their burgeoning careers. "We were kinda hoping for a girl," he said, speaking of himself and wife Kathryn Grant. "But that boy of ours is such a wonderful little fella that we're not at all disappointed." Young Tex, as he is called for his mother's home state is an early riser, Bing reported. But that's all right because Bing is too. They both get up around 6. Yes, I can handle a diaper pretty well," the crooner smiled. "And, I do a little singing to him when I try to get him to sleep. I carry him around and rock him; they seem to like the movement at that age (2 months)." The lad has already taken his first journey. His parents drove him to their Pebble Beach home, 300 miles north, and he enjoyed the cool climate in contrast to Los Angeles' late summer heat.

This week the entire Crosby clan gathered for dinner to honor son Philip and his bride Sandra Drummond. "She's a very sweet girl," Bing said. "She's got a good head on her shoulders and she doesn't drink or smoke." Papa Crosby admitted that he was surprised that his four older boys appear headed for show biz careers. "I knew Gary would probably try it, but I thought I had the other three headed in different directions," he said. "The twins I looked for to take over the Elko ranch. But I guess they got too close to it. They spent their summers up there working hard and I suppose the ranching life lost its glamor for them. "I suppose it's only natural they would be going into show business. After all, their mother (Dixie Lee) and father were in it, and all our friends were too."

San Mateo Times, November 8, 1958---Bing Crosby watched his son Gary rehearse an intricate routine as a VMI cadet, in the movie, "Mardi Gras." Gary finished the number gasping for breath and said: "At VMI the cadets have seven minutes to do what I've done now in 2½ minutes." . . .Bing puffed his pipe, then replied; "True, son, true. But your pay is better."

S.F. Chronicle, Hedda Hopper, November 22, 1958---The four Crosby boys could make a mint if they put together a good act. They were delightful on the Silvers show. Lindsay is the heartbreaker.

Here's a few excerpts from a series of five articles that appeared in the L.A. Mirror News in September. The articles are just too long to print the complete series in the journal; so, I will pick out the important topics for you to read:

OLD GROANER GIVES EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO MIRROR NEWS, by Paul Weeks, Staff Writer.

"We live in a Bing Crosby era in a Crosbied economy. Why, it wouldn't be surprising if, when scientists recite the countdown on the first manned moon vehicle, it will go: ' . . . five, four, three, two, one . . . BING!' Or, if moonmen step off of the first earth vehicle, the landing will be on the 16th hole (the darndest ocean-water hazard in golf) at Cypress Point. And these creatures will issue forth, crooning in a weird, unearthly trio: "When the buh-blooo of the night meets the golllld of the day. . . buh, buh, buh, boooo, buh, buh, buh, boooo, bububooooooooo." In other words, maybe a good old back - to - Crosby movement is the remedy of the hour, the restorer of sanity, the lazy dream. The American way, if you please. Anyone with a grain of insight can see the truth in our being a Bing Crosby world. His voice (upward of 150,000,000 records has been heard by more people than any other since Adam took Eve down the Old Ox Road. He raised the voice recorder from a Gramophone to a hi-fi. His motion pictures (57 of them are top box-office history. You already have an inkling about how we live in a Bing Crosby economy: We'd be plunged into a morass of depression if 'everything Bing' were suddenly to vaporize. Hollywood agents would walk the streets; record companies would topple, etc. But everything Bing will not vaporize. Because, besides producing pictures, records, baseball clubs, TV spectaculars, frozen orange juice, oil, and beef cattle, Bing has been an inveterate producer of more Crosbys. Boys, specifically. Yes, Bing is an American institution. But he's more than an outward symbol. He's infiltrated our personal lives like a nostalgic memory that's always there. Bing is so darned easy for all of us to identify with. He talks our language. He sings our songs. His kids get into scrapes as some of ours do. But Bing, with all his imperfections, achieved success, fame, fortune and a goodly measure of happiness.

FROM THE WEST COAST.....Cont'd.

Others in his own field strive mightily to emulate him. They can't. Why? Because Bing never worked too hard at trying to be anyone but himself. He had, and still has, fun just being who he is. Bing chats easily and directly. No pretence. He doesn't talk down to you. He doesn't fawn on you. He tells you he's still looking for good movie scripts for himself, though. . . 'I'm in an in-between age.', he laughs, 'too old to win the girl and too young to give her away--- although some people may express some doubt about the last part.' But don't count out the Old Groaner. In spite of the recurrent retirement rumors, Bing really has no intention of bowing out now. If he were the type to quit when he had it made, he could have folded all that lettuce back in the '30's and retired comfortably to a quiet golf pasture somewhere. Too old to win the girl? Why, it wasn't in a movie script but on the front pages of every newspaper on October, 24, 1957, that Bing did just that. Kathy Grant, the lovely actress from Texas, is no mythical character out of a Bing Crosby musical. Bing, of course, has a large home life these days. He and Kathy don't go out much, especially since young Harry Lillis Crosby Jr.,--- also known as Tex---arrived in August. Several writers have tackled Bing's biography---the first one in book form was written in 1937. But the final chapter of the Bing Crosby story is a long way from being written. Bing's own summation of his career is characteristically--- and unduly---modest. Bing's influence on American entertainment---on the American scene in general, for that matter---certainly belies his own remarks (the very modest remarks). But this is no time for a requiem. It's STILL a Bing Crosby World."

I guess that concludes all the recent news from out west. I am looking forward to January and the Bing Crosby Pebble Beach Tournament, which you can bet that I will drive down to see. I want to thank Maurine Carter again for bringing me the series of articles on Bing that appeared in the L.A. paper. I had the pleasure of meeting Maurine in October, when she flew up to San Francisco over a week-end to visit me.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

A copy of Bing and Kathryn's birth announcement, I also received a copy, it was made like the label of a record.

DECCA

Another
Bing Crosby
Enterprise

Not Licensed
For Broadcast
Outside Of
Nursery

Date: Aug. 8, 1958
Time: 11:32 A.M.
New Personality
Series

A New
World Of
Dimensional
Sound!

JUST CALL ME "TEX"

Words & Music Katherine & Bing Crosby

As Sung By

HARRY LILLIS CROSBY JR.

with Orchestra Dir. By Dr. Abner Moss



Crosbyanna Room at Gonzaga
Man looking in cabinet where
Club plaque is on display

MONUMENT TO CHERISHED MEMORIES

Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington, has one of the most beautiful college libraries in the country through the generosity of a devoted alumuns-genial crooner Bing Crosby

Nostalgic memories of the "good old college days" are common to most alumni. Old friends, old professors, old landmarks-all combine to bring back a picture of happy times in the past. But there is a deeper meaning to Alma Mater ties. A university performing its proper function provides a guidepost for a way of life-a philosophy so firmly rooted that it flourishes as years pass. Thus, a feeling of kinship is inspired and alumni devoted to the welfare of their school is the result.

In its seventy-year history, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington, has developed just such alumni devotion. Listed among its "sons" are distinguished leaders in all walks of life-business, medicine, law, public service and religion-and all of them have played a major role in the rapid development of Gonzaga from the time it was a pioneer educational institution on the Northwest frontier. Most famous of these is Harry L. (Bing) Crosby whose pride in his Alma Mater prompted him to mention Gonzaga so many times on his radio programs. For many years, Bing was active as a benefactor of his school. But he wanted to do something really big and his opportunity came in 1948.

The need for a new library, adequate to meet the requirements of a constantly increasing student body (the enrollment now numbers nearly 1700) became apparent and so Bing established a fund for its construction. At the same time, Rev. Clifford A. Carroll, S.J. librarian, and the library Committee started preliminary planning. Libraries throughout the United States were visited and consulted.

MONUMENT TO CHERISHED MEMORIES:.....Cont'd.

Countless architectural plans and drawings were examined to obtain ideas for a library building which would be modern, functional, comfortable, and best suited to the particular needs of the University.

When the Crosby fund was adequate, these plans were put into immediate operation, and last fall the Crosby Library was formally dedicated. Centrally located on the beautiful campus, the new \$705,000 Library has more than fulfilled the expectations of its planners. The facade of red Minnesota granite at the main entrance to the building harmonizes with the painted concrete surfaces of the rest of the structure. Planter boxes along the sides of the entrance are formed by an extension of the building. Aluminum framed windows in the front and side walls contribute to the Library's modern lines. Two levels of stairs lead up to the main entrance, and a raised, two and one-half foot terrace surrounds the building on three sides, giving it a monumental appearance.

Of modular construction the Crosby Library has three-stories, with an aggregate floor space of 33,464 square feet.

The lower floor contains the main stack area, with a capacity of 166,000 volumes. Thirty study carrels with double lockers are available for students and faculty. A vault which houses the archives of the Oregon Province of the Society of Jesus, is also located here. Other facilities, offered on the lower floor are the map and film room equipped with a microfilm camera and a complete photographic darkroom, and the music room, where two listening booths equipped with record players are provided.

The main reading room, located on the first floor seats 150 students. An unobstructed view of the entire area is possible from the charging desk at the entrance. The periodicals section is located at the rear of the room. Arrangement of Library Bureau furniture, round tables alternating with rectangular ones, and leather back chairs, lend an air of informality to the room. Parallel to the reading room is a stack area which has a capacity of 36,000 volumes. Fourteen study tables are placed at the windows along the east wall. A workroom in the rear provides space for storage and receiving freight.

Of particular interest to both students and visitors is the Crosbyana Room, located on the second floor. Here many of Bing Crosby's personal trophies are on display in Library Bureau museum cases. Gold records, Oscars, and other awards presented to him during his highly successful entertainment career attract considerable interest. Meetings of the Board of Regents; Bing is a member, are held in this room.

On the same floor is the exhibits and lecture room which seats 100 people. The walls are covered with special display boards for paintings and exhibits. An adjoining room is used for storage of folding chairs and audio-visual equipment. To the rear of the lecture room are a study room, seating 122 students, and the rare books room.

Other library facilities offered on the second floor are a staff lounge, the Gerard Manley Hopkins Room, which contains the Library's unique collection of this great English poet's works; a glassed-in seminar room and a reading room seating 66 students.

The three floor levels are served by a passenger elevator and a book lift large enough to hold a book truck. The floor in the lobby and the catalog areas is of Venetian terrazzo. Asphalt tile covers all other floor areas, which are of finished concrete.

The furniture, supplied by the Library Bureau of Remington Rand is of contemporary design in finished natural birch. Wooden shelving matches the furniture and the metal shelving is a soft grey-green. Total shelf capacity for the library is 310,000 volumes.

The name of the Crosby Library embraces a building, a collection of books, and a group of people. But more than that, it is the symbol

of a system of education and a way of life embodied in the teaching of Gonzaga University, in the traditions carried on by its students, and in the lives of its alumni.



Formal dedication of the new library was a major event on the campus. Shown left to right after the ceremony are: Very Rev. Edmund W. Morton S.J., President of Gonzaga University; James P. Purvis, Purvis Construction Co., building contractors for the Library; John W. Maloney Jr., John W. Maloney Co., architects; and Bing Crosby.

(This article and snaps were used with the permission of Mark J. Henahan, Assistant Manager, Publicity & Publications of Remington Rand's magazine The Pioneer - May-June Issue 1958.)

BING DROPS ME A LINE - Cyril Stapleton - November 6, 1958
London Newspaper

In this brittle business of singing popular songs, where reputation are made overnight and are smashed as easily as the records they are built on, one man stays right up there at the top. He is the undisputed king of them all, the man who is imitated and hero-worshipped by a regular fan club of stars, the very prototype of every amateur bathroom baritone--Bing Crosby.

Crosby wrote me last week to say that he and his new wife Kathryn may visit England in the Spring.

"Haven't been doing any recording to speak of," writes Bing, with the complacency of a man who could afford to underwrite our National Debt. "Just an album with Rosie Clooney."

"It's called 'Fancy Meeting You Here'--a musical tour. Turned out rather well, I thought, with some highly interesting and amusing arrangements by Billy May."

Bing also tells me that the TV shows he did with Dean Martin and Patti Page recently was telerecorded and may be shown on British screens shortly.

Submitted by Pat Sullivan

Rena Albanesi

That Christmas Feeling

DL 8781

The listenable set includes modern and traditional Christmas music. Crosby's approach is as listenable as ever, and his name, long associated with various holiday programming packages, should prove very strong saleswise. The attractive cover in warm hues of brown and yellow adds to the over-all appeal.

(Billboard)

November 3, 1958

There's probably no other singer around with as many Christmas tunes in his groove than Bing Crosby, but Christmas and The Groaner have virtually become synonymous so there's probably lots of sense to this newest entry for the 1958 season. In it are the pops, the hymns and the carols culled from Crosby's longtime Decca catalog.

(Variety)

November 5, 1958

Side One

1. That Christmas Feeling
2. Christmas Is A-Comin'
3. The Christmas Song
4. Rudolph The Red Nose Reindeer
5. Is Christmas Only a Tree
6. You're All I Want for Christmas
7. Here Comes Santa Claus

Side Two

1. Christmas Carols
Deck the Hall
Away in the Manger
I Saw Three Ships
2. The First Nowell
3. Twelve Days of Christmas
4. O Fir Tree Dark
5. Christmas Carols
Good King Wenceslas
We Three Kings of Orient Are
Angels we Have Heard on High
6. I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Fancy Meeting You Here

R.C.A. LPM-1854

A lot of charm here-A flock of tunes carrying different places names, carrying out the idea of the album title. Included are Bing and Rosemary Clooney. Cover also carries out the theme. Performances are very smart, with occasional interpolations and asides by Crosby and Clooney. Arranged and conducted in grand style by May.

(Billboard)

November 24, 1958

Two savvy singers team up in a charming rundown of a dozen numbers for a pop set with adult appeal. Bing Crosby, whose freelancing has turned his name up on a flock of labels recently, and Rosemary Clooney, who also did this as a one-shot for Victor, work together easily on a songalog. Billy May's orch supplies quiet, capable backing.

Side 1

1. Fancy Meeting You Here
2. On a Slow Boat to China
3. I Can't Get Started
4. Hindustan
5. It Happened in Monterey
6. You Came Along Way from St.
Louis
7. Love Won't Let You Get Away

Side 2

1. How About You
2. Brazil
3. Isle of Capri
4. Say "Si Si"
5. Calcutta
6. Love Won't Let You Get Away

Bing - A Musical Autobiography

DL 9604

This is the second platter of the five-record de luxe Crosby album to be released on its own. It covers the years 1934-1941, with Bing singing and narrating his way thru short versions of 26 of his biggest successes, ranging from "June in January" to items like "Mexicali Rose", more or less in the order of their release. He's backed with real skill by Buddy Cole's trio. Actually the period covered is one of his best, from a musical standpoint, and his fans will love it.

(Billboard)

December 15, 1958

Gary Crosby's New Record

Cheatin' on Me - The standard is sold with some excitement by Gary Crosby over warm backing.

Judy, Judy - Gary Crosby comes thru with a pleasant reading of a driving rock and roller. The band backing adds kicks.

(Billboard)

October 13, 1958

Cheating on Me - an oldie gets a strong slice by the young Crosby who really swings the lyric across. Judy, Judy - is a bright rocking number also savvily delivered.

(Variety)

October 15, 1958

There was nothing pre-arranged about the surprise party Bing Crosby and Dean Martin sprang on the Eddie Fisher Show last night when they burst through the curtain into the middle of Jerry Lewis' guest shot routine. It was Crosby's own puckish little plot.

Nobody was "in on it"-and it took the Fisher company completely off-guard, in addition to giving the show a big lift.

Crosby had barged into the Fisher rehearsal-yesterday afternoon and broken up the proceedings for a few minutes. His own ABC-TV special, which goes on tonight with Martin as a guest star, was in rehearsal just a few studios down the corridor in the NBC plant at Burbank, California.

Martin didn't accompany him on the earlier foray.

A very funny bit it was-with inestimable dividends.

Martin's willingness to join in Crosby's gag, incidentally gave rise to immediate but unfounded rumors of a possible Martin-Lewis reconciliation.

After Dean and Bing left in, it took Eddie and Jerry a full three minutes to get the Chesterfield show back on course, Dean and Bing were breaking themselves up for longer than that.

"It was just a gag", Dean grinned in the understatement of the season. "Bing and I were rehearsing for Bing's show.

"You could call it an unrehearsed walk-on", drawled Bing, then the man who draws TV's top guest star pay figured:

"If we're lucky we may get a couple of cartons of cigarets out of this."

(New York Post)

October 1, 1958

For some private joke of their own, Mrs. Bing Crosby's birthday card to her husband was in German. Kathy wrapped up in their baby seems in no hurry to resume her movie career...

(Daily Mirror)

October 9, 1958

BING TALKS OF SONS, THEIR WIVES, HIS BABY

Hollywood, Oct. 4--A sign on the studio door said, "closed rehearsal--positively no admittance"--but this didn't mean much. People came, others went, and a lean individual, tanned, was the centre of activity. -- It wasn't hard singling this fellow out. Blue slacks, a striped sport shirt, a gaudy red baseball cap. For reading, he wore specs. For relaxation, he puffed a pipe. Bing Crosby! Older? Maybe. Thinner? For certain. But his voice has the same husky timbre. His approach is still off-beat.

"Hi, boy," was his opener, "what's doing in Canada? Any blizzards?"

About Toronto.... "That baseball club of yours--the Maple Leafs--they sure draw people," he said. "I keep thinking Toronto (he pronounces it toe-ron-toe) should be major league. A Canadian team in the World Series? I'd like to see it."

With Bing, an interview rises or falls on the opening gambits. And sports are the sesame. He is interested in all lines of muscular activity and endeavour.

"My team--Pittsburgh," he said. "We finished second. Good club Won 28 of the last 35, but Milwaukee did the same. Next year--with a southpaw and a hard-hitting outfielder, the Bucs could do it, -- Fishing? "Just came back from Canada," he said, and he took off his cap (yep, he's bald). "A bunch of us--fellows I travel with every summer--Phil Harris is one--we rented a boat and went to Alaska. On the way back we stopped in at Prince Rupert and other spots along the B.C. coast. Fishing was good--it always is. Salmon! One fellow caught a 72-pounder. The biggest I ever caught, using a light tackle and a slab of herring, weighed 64." -- Did he have it mounted? "Mounted?" he said puzzled. "I don't collect trophies, records or clippings. I don't collect anything." -- What about golf? "You know how it is," he said, some days are good. Others, you're off, generally, I'm in the 70's--not bad--but I've been playing for years. Played yesterday, in fact. Long drives. Poor putts."

At this point Ricky Nelson, the singing adolescent, turned up so Bing sauntered over for a chat. Ricky looked like a hot-rodder. Long hair. Black shirt. Tight jeans. -- "Heh, son" said Bing. "Can you lick your old man?" -- Ricky allowed as how he couldn't. -- "Keep at it and keep making records," said Bing, sauntering back.

There's a lad, he said, nodding to Ricky, "who's doing okay. I'm no expert on music (Come now: 20 gold records) but I'd say singers who do well are the ones who don't imitate. Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, Johnny Mathis--I listen to them. They have style. I don't mean it's there--with gimmicks, I mean it's there--you know it--they have it. Jimmy Rodgers in an example. Watch him."

"In my case," said Bing, lighting his pipe, "I got going by boo-de-booing...and that started in desperation. It was in 1927, in vaudeville. There were two of us and we had to do something in the second chorus. But we weren't the only boo-de-boosers. Somehow it became my trademark." -- His favorite Crosby record? "I don't have to think about it," he said. "White Christmas."

By now we were in the meat of the interview, what are his plans? How are things with his family? -- "I'll take the family first," said Bing, and if he braced himself it wasn't noticeable. "I had two long-distance calls today from newspapers in New York, and they asked very personal questions," he said. "They seemed concerned about Philip's marriage--it was the same with Dennis. I told them what I'll tell you. In both cases, my sons knew the girls for some time--I know the girls--and they are ladies. My sons are old enough to make up their minds. Dennis and Philip are twins. They're 24. Gary is 25--he's just made a picture which I understand is good. Lindsay is the baby--he's 20. He's in the Army."

But, like any father Bing has had disappointments with his offspring. Philip and Dennis marrying showgirls hasn't got him down. The fact that all his sons show aversion to higher education is annoying. -- "I kinda thought--you know--that somewhere in the crowd there'd be a college degree," said Bing. They all tried--Stanford, Washington State, Williams--none made it. But maybe it's understandable. Maybe they take after me. I never graduated either and I didn't have any excuse. With all of them, army service was a factor.

There is however still hope for a magna cum laude among the Crosbys. Son No. 5, from Bing's second marriage, to actress Kathryn Grant, is six weeks old. -- "Have you any kids? How many? Three?" said Bing. "Well, I'll bet they aren't spread out like mine. Yep, it's exciting. And it's bewildering. I'd forgotten how babies smile."

Mrs. Crosby apparently plans to continue in movies. "She's under contract to Columbia--they wanted her for a picture in Europe this fall," said Bing. "I was against it and she was against it because we consulted the baby. We asked him and he turned thumbs down."

Next, his own career. For years he was a TV holdout, at least this was the understanding. But now he has a five-year contract with ABC calling for two hour-long spectaculars per season. One of these song-and-dance sessions was televised this week. In fact, this was a rehearsal for that effort.

Bing is his breezy self on TV but he claims everything he says is carefully planned and thoroughly rehearsed. That's what he says. Every word.

He cleared up something else -- "I was never a TV holdout-- I had nothing against the medium--I was just too busy," he said. "It's easier than movies, meaning I don't work so hard. For these shows, eight days' rehearsal with no fixed schedule. Movies take seven weeks, maybe more. There is a schedule and it is fixed?"

Either way Bing likes working. -- "All my life," he said, "I've tried to do what comes natural. I'm not a great actor--I couldn't be-- I turn down too many roles. Why? Because they go beyond my ability. I wouldn't feel natural. I wouldn't be me."

But there have been exceptions, such as "The Country Girl," with Grace Kelly, when he won an Oscar nomination. Out of 70 pictures this one heads Bing's list. -- "It was a breakthrough, a challenge.. I thought I could play the drunken husband. It came off pretty good," he said. "It was different from "Going My Way" (when he did win an Oscar) because I played a priest and I felt at home. Of course," he said, "the pictures I enjoyed most--the "Road pictures". I made six of them. With old Ski-Nose--Bob Hope. I can't remember the titles."

Has he anything on tap in movies? -- "Not a thing," he said. "The fact is, they have trouble finding the right parts for me. They've finally discovered I'm too old to win the girl."

Maybe so, Bing is in his 50's, but he still has an aura which almost defies description. Relaxed, friendly, good-natured--these are trite words. Looking back to his first flicker--"The Big Broadcast" in 1931--he was the way he is today.

Or is this so? Talking to insiders in Hollywood, men who have worked with the Groaner through the years, there have been times when he was difficult to handle and hard to work with. He wouldn't give interviews at one time. Photographers (because his shorn locks) were his enemy.

If these rumors are true, there has been a change. Bing has mellowed.

I have faith in people," he said. "And having faith has paid off-- I don't mean in money but in the life I've led. People have been good to me.

BING TALKS OF SONS, THEIR WIVES, HIS BABY.....Cont'd.

At this rehearsal, in almost miraculous fashion, Der Bingle ran the show. He set the pace, quietly, joshingly, and he had some temperamental talent in tow. Dean Martin, for example, is a director's nightmare. With Bing, he's all business.

"This happens so often I've given up trying to explain it," says the fellow sitting next to me--George Rosenberg, one of Bing's business associates.

"One thing Bing didn't mention," said Rosenberg, "is the money he could make by sacrificing his convictions. He rejects scripts automatically where divorce is allowed (Bing is a devout Roman Catholic). He avoids western--gunplay. Las Vegas? They offered him a bundle--so much money it left me breathless--but he said no he wouldn't become a shill for gamblers."

The rehearsal was over--Bing glanced at his watch--there was time for three quick questions.

Has he considered directing? -- "No," he said.

Retiring? -- "Not at the moment."

Has it been a good life? "I'm an average guy who got lucky."

Now let me ask you something," said Bing. "What about that hockey team?--the Maple Leafs?--in Toe-ron-toe? Man, they've gone to pieces."

Toronto Daily Star

October 4, 1958

Submitted by Lillian Potter - 37 Elvina Gardens - Toronto 12,
Ontario, Canada

HOW BING WAS SIGNED BY CBS Marie Torre

CBS chairman William S. Paley, honored by the Broadcast Pioneers at a luncheon yesterday, spoke interestingly about the early days of CBS Radio, where Bing Crosby played a prominent part. Paley first heard Crosby's voice blaring from a record on an ocean liner bound for Europe. He immediately sent a radiogram to the network's artist bureau in New York; suggesting Crosby be signed by CBS.

"When I got home to New York some weeks later," Paley related, "I asked what had happened. The answer was: nothing.

"Inquiry had developed the opinion from Los Angeles, where Crosby was singing at the Coconut Grove, that he was a rather flighty young fellow, unlikely to fit in well to the strict broadcasting schedules, so the matter had been dropped. I said I didn't care nearly so much about how this young man observed the calendar as I did about his voice, so please get going. This proved arduous. It seemed that our display of interest had been sniffed by the competition. This was conveyed to us as a hint that the Crosby services would not come cheap. At this time, \$100 a week was a good guarantee for an unknown singer on a sustaining show, so I was properly stunned when the enterprising Crosby lawyer said that his client's fee would be \$2,000 a week take it or leave it. I did neither, but I did eventually agree to what seemed the fantastic sum of \$1,500 a week guarantee, wondering why I was doing it."

Mr. Paley ceased wondering several weeks later, of course, when the whole country started talking about "this great new vocalist, Bing Crosby."

Herald Tribune

November 21, 1958

Please do acknowledge your journal and when you rejoin make out your check or money order to me (Rena Albanesi) and not to be made out to the Club Crosby.